



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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THELYPTERIS PHEGOPTERIS

NORTHERN BEECHFERN

Northern Beechfern is a fern with fronds 10-50 cm long that arise from long, slender rhizomes. About half of the frond length is made up of a slender stalk. The blades are beset with hairs; especially ciliate hairs along the blade margins and midveins. There are 10-25 pairs of pinnae in each pinnately compound leaf. The lower pair are connected to the central axis at a downturned angle. The sori are borne just inside the margins of each pinnae lobe. Producing spores late in season; August or September.

Distinguished from most other ferns with uniform, non-evergreen fronds greater than 10 cm by scattered rather than densely tufted fronds, and by the distinctly hairy blade margins and midveins rather than glabrous or chaffy ones. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.